

WRDA2016

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016 is Congress' return to the regular business of addressing the needs of America's harbors, locks, dams, flood protection, and other water resources infrastructure to ensure the Nation's economic competitiveness. WRDA 2016 authorizes projects and activities related to the key missions of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, including developing and maintaining the Nation's waterway infrastructure and supporting effective and targeted flood protection and environmental restoration needs.

Restoring the two-year WRDA cycle is vital for our Nation, as other countries continue to invest in their own water resources infrastructure. For example, the expanded Panama Canal is preparing to open this summer, with the capacity to accommodate larger vessels that can carry nearly three times as many shipping containers. Regular action and oversight by Congress through the biannual WRDA process will ensure that the United States' infrastructure is prepared for future growth and that we do not fall further behind in the face of global competition.

The legislation follows the strong bipartisan reforms included in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, and adheres to the new process established in that law for the prioritization and congressional review of Corps water resources development activities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WRDA 2016

Improves America's Water Resources Infrastructure

- Authorizes needed investment in America's ports, channels, locks, dams, and other infrastructure that supports the maritime and waterways transportation system and provides flood protection for homes and businesses.
- Authorizes 28 Army Corps of Engineers Chief's Reports received since WRRDA 2014; Chief's Reports are the final recommendation to Congress by the Corps' Chief of Engineers for water resources infrastructure priorities.
 - » These infrastructure improvements have been proposed at the local level, in cooperation and consultation with the Corps, and also have national economic and environmental benefits.
 - » All Chief's Reports have been fully vetted by the Committee at hearings this year.



WATER RESOURCES INFRASTRUCTURE IS VITAL TO THE ECONOMY AND JOB GROWTH.



More than 600 million tons valued at over \$230 billion move on our inland waterways annually.



Nationwide, the benefit-to-cost ratio for flood protection projects is 7-to-1.



Approximately \$1.4 trillion worth of goods move through our ports each year.

- Authorizes studies for future water resources projects and makes modifications to previously authorized projects.
 - » Utilizes the new process reforms established under WRRDA 2014 that allow greater local participation in project selection.
- Keeps American jobs in America by strengthening our competitiveness and ensuring that our transportation system remains attractive to private sector job creators.

Fiscally Responsible

- Deauthorizes \$5 billion in previously authorized projects, offsetting the approximately \$5 billion in new authorizations.
- Sunsets new authorizations to prevent future project backlogs.
- Reduces the inventory of projects that are not needed for the missions of the Corps.

Strengthens Oversight, Transparency, and Accountability

- Contains no earmarks.
- Follows the new transparent process developed in WRRDA 2014 to review and prioritize water resources development activities with strong Congressional oversight.

Return to Regular Order

- Returning to the two-year cycle of considering WRDA legislation ensures proper Congressional oversight of the Army Corps of Engineers and enables Congress to address the Nation's water resources development needs.
- Maintaining regular order saves money by allowing needed water resources infrastructure improvements and project modifications to move forward, and preventing the unnecessary increases in project costs that occur when authorizations are stalled or delayed.

